National Council
for
HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

September 1951 QUARTERLY REPORT Vol. III, No. 3

Woodlawn Plantation and the National Trust Concept

When the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States announced at the end of August that it had signed a long-term leave for Woodlawn Plantation with Woodlawn Public Foundation, Inc., a member organization of the National Council, there must have been confusion in the minds of many as to the reasons for this action. To explain this situation fully, it is necessary to review the history of the organizations briefly.

The National Trust came into existence two years after the National Council was chartered in the District of Columbia in 1947. The basic legislation was proposed by the chief agency of the Federal Government interested in preservation, the National Park Service. It was believed necessary to have in this country a Congressionally-authorized, non-Governmental body with the power to "accept, hold and administer sites, buildings and objects significant in American history and culture." The proposed National Trust was linked to the only existing national preservation society by giving the National Council the power to elect the Trustees, other than the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Gallery of Art, who were named in the legislation.

As soon as the President of the United States signed Public Law 408, 81st Congress, authorizing the establishment of the National Trust, it was linked administratively with the National Council. When the new Trustees held their organizational meeting in May 1950 they confirmed the joint administration and adopted a joint program with the National Council. The Council continued to be a membership organization that dealt with all phases of preservation. The Trust, potentially a holding corporation and administrative agency, decided that its powers would be used only as a last resort.

A number of properties have already been called to the attention of the Trustees, who asked the Council's Committee on Standards and Surveys to assess them. Early in this year the Woodlawn Public Foundation, which had purchased Woodlawn Plantation in 1949, offered their property to the Trust. Acceptance was contingent upon the procurement of funds sufficient to administer the property and to set up a long-range preservation program. An anonymous donor offered $200,000 to the National Trust for the sole purpose of taking over Woodlawn Plantation. It was eventually decided by the governing bodies of both organizations that a long-term lease would be the most satisfactory device. The working out of this agreement explains only one of the roles that the National Trust can undertake. The breadth of the legislation establishing it offers the possibility of other roles, but only time can tell that story.

IN AND OUT OF HEADQUARTERS

It was the hope of the founders of the National Council that the significance of what they were seeking to do would be recognized throughout the country. The very best evidence that such acceptance is being gained is seen in the continued expansion of the organizational rolls. Again in the last quarter it was a pleasure to welcome into the National Council the following eight member organizations, thus swelling the total to 95:

CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION, INC., HISTORICAL COMMITTEE
THE ELFRETH'S ALLEY ASSOCIATION, INC.
HISTORIC WICHITA, INC.
MUNSON-WILLIAMS-PROCTOR INSTITUTE
OLD PRESBYTERIAN MEETING HOUSE
OLD SAGG-HARBOUR COMMITTEE
PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LANDMARKS
PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF NEWPORT COUNTY

An old and good friend of preservation projects throughout the country has again contributed thoughtfully to the cause. SCALAMANDRE SILKS, INC., has joined the National Council as a corporate member. Mr. Franco Scalamandre has long been known as one of this country's outstanding authorities in the field of textile history.

In the Headquarters office a number of moves and additions are noteworthy. General U. S. Grant, 3rd, who has retired as vice president of The George Washington University, has moved into one of the offices of the Council and Trust. With him he has brought his secretary, Mrs. Thelma Collier, who is now assisting on accounting and procurement. The constantly increasing importance of the work that is mainly achieved by Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock, Chief of Historical Research, has been recognized in the employment of Mr. James Ray Bowman, Research Assistant, and Mrs. Hope Patterson. Mr. Bowman, a graduate of Knox College who has graduate degrees in Arts and Library Science from the University of Minnesota, has been loaned by the Library of Congress. Mrs. Patterson attended Springside School in Philadelphia and the Sorbonne.

The Executive Board of the National Council has announced the election of three additional Trustees of the National Trust: The Honorable J. Hardin Peterson, former Congressman from the 1st Florida District; Mr. Newton B. Drury, Director of the Division of Beaches and Parks in California; and Mr. C. F. Jacobsen, President of the National Metropolitan Bank, Washington, D. C. Each of these gentlemen has already contributed to the cause of preservation and will now be in a position to offer even greater service.

To two member organizations have gone the sincere regrets of the National Council because of the deaths of valued officers. In California, Mrs. Armitage S. C. Forbes died at the age of 91 in September. Mrs. Forbes, President Emeritus of the Campo de Cauenga Memorial Association, had been active throughout her lifetime in preservation causes. Mr. Charles Francis Jenkins, President of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and a founder of the Germantown Historical Society, died in July at the age of 86. He was widely known as historian, collector, philanthropist and educator.

"Preservation by Nature" might have been the headline for a brief item from Centralia, Illinois. When the waters of the Kaskaskia River receded recently, a boat believed used by French traders in the 1700's was uncovered. Clay around it had kept the craft well preserved.

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING, PHILADELPHIA, OCTOBER 29 AND 30

Since Philadelphia is this year celebrating the 175th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it is entirely fitting that the National Council should mark its own lesser birthday there. A large local arrangements committee, of which Judge Edwin O. Lewis is chairman, has planned a brilliant program, featuring luncheons and tours in addition to the usual meeting sessions and annual dinner. Charter member Michael Francis Doyle has generously made it possible for the National Council to present to the Independence National Historical Park Project a bronze facsimile reproduction of the Declaration of Independence. Early registration indicates that this will be one of the best-attended meetings the National Council has ever held, with delegates coming from California, Florida, Missouri, and Minnesota to swell the number of members and delegates from states closer to the scene. A full report from the transcribed stenographic record will be presented in the next Report.

Two recent announcements made by the Department of the Interior have dealt exclusively with founding members of the National Council. Mr. Arthur E. Demaray, Director of the National Park Service, will resign early in December after more than 48 years of Government service. Mr. Demaray, a loyal supporter of the Council's efforts, will be succeeded by Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, and Mr. Thomas J. Allen will become one of the Assistant Directors. Two other men important in the Council's history have been named by the Secretary of the Interior to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments: General U. S. Grant, 3rd, and Dr. Turpin C. Bannister, Dean of the School of Architecture, University of Illinois, who has recently been nominated to be Vice President of the National Council. To all of these men, the National Council extends cordial congratulations; to Mr. Demaray, a fond farewell after a job so well done and a hope that his new-found leisure time will enable him to work even more closely with the Council in the future.

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND SURVEYS

The major work of the Committee on Standards and Surveys in the early history of the National Council was the formulation of "Criteria to be Used in Selecting Historic Sites and Buildings," a statement adopted by the Executive Board of the Council and the Board of Trustees of the Trust. The National Trust also asked that the Committee serve as a board of review of sites and buildings offered to the National Trust. In order to accomplish its work more expeditiously the Committee has been reorganized. Chairman Guy Stanton Ford is now assisted by Waldo G. Leland, Ronald F. Lee, Frank Setzler, Walter Taylor, C. Vann Woodward, Turpin C. Bannister, Frederick Johnson, Gilmore Clarke, Bertram K. Little, and Bradford Williams. An executive committee of local members, which can meet regularly, has been named and has met several times with General U. S. Grant, 3rd, Frederick L. Rath, Jr., and Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock.

At the last meeting the executive committee, in addition to discussing problems referred to it by the National Trust, adopted for experimental purposes a form to be used for surveys of historic sites and buildings. Basically, the form was developed from those used by the Historic American Buildings Survey and by Charleston, South Carolina, when it made its comprehensive survey, and from the experience of the National Park Service. Consideration was also given to the Council's own Criteria and the need for information regarding zoning. Four cities, or areas of cities, working through member organizations have agreed to attempt planned surveys on the basis of these forms, with such help as the National Council can extend at this time.

PROPOSED PRESERVATION

Arcadia, California. The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, a new member organization of the National Council, is planning the restoration of several of the historic structures on its grounds. The first to be done will be the old "Lucky" Baldwin Casino, a Victorian period-piece. Mr. Maurice Block, former curator at the Henry E. Huntington Library, who is in charge of the planning, is now traveling in the East, studying similar projects.

Wetherfield, Vermont. The first Congregational Church is planning the preservation of the Reverend Dan Foster House in memory of the first settled minister in the town as a residence for summer-supply ministers.

St. Croix, Virgin Islands. The St. Croix Landmarks League, a member organization, has proposed that the old waterfront area of Christiansted, the capital, be declared a national historic site. This area, built by the Danes in the 17th century, is virtually intact, with a fort, custom house, Government house and branching streets of colonnaded stores. It was here that Alexander Hamilton served his commercial apprenticeship, and, according to Dr. Broadus Mitchell, supporter of the proposal, "Though problems remain, one reflects that if a lad from St. Croix could do so much for the solvency and prosperity of the continent, the continent now may manage to return the favor."

San Francisco, California. The Cistercian monastery, Santa Maria de Olivia, built in Spain between 1175 and 1617 A.D., was presented to the City of San Francisco in 1941 by William Randolph Hearst. Following the death of the publisher recently, the City's Board of Supervisors has urged its erection in Golden Gate Park as a memorial to its donor.

Barnstable, Massachusetts. The congregation of the West Parish Meetinghouse, "built and dedicated to God A.D. 1718," has embarked on a campaign to restore and preserve this early American church.

Olympia, Washington. Acquisition of approximately 300 acres near the Okanogan River at the site of the historic Astor and Hudson's Bay Company posts has been authorized by the Advisory Board on Historic Sites of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Long Island, New York. Historic Barnegat Lighthouse may once again be opened to the public if the suggestions made at a recent inspection of the site on the northern tip of Long Island are accepted and a State Park area is developed there.

San Mateo, California. Plans for restoring the Sanchez Adobe, hacienda of what was once the Rancho San Pedro, have been presented to the County Board of Supervisors.

The residents of Newington, New Hampshire, are fighting the wiping out of their 328-year old town by the impending establishment of a 3,000-acre jet bomber base. On New York City's Staten Island there is a movement underway to stop the proposed destruction of Randall Island Memorial Church, designed after St. Paul's Cathedral in London at a cost of $250,000 more than 50 years ago.

PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS

San Francisco, California. Sentimental San Franciscans and others who have visited the hilly city by the Golden Gate are making a valiant effort to save the bright red little cable cars that have bounced over the city's hills for many years. A "Save the Cable Cars" Committee has been organized to propose a bond issue to keep the remaining lines in use at city expense.

Blunt, South Dakota. The 66th anniversary of the death of Mentor Graham was the occasion for the dedication of the home of Abraham Lincoln's early teacher, which is currently being restored by the State Historical Society of South Dakota.

Chillicothe, Ohio. "Adena," the Governor Thomas Worthington Home (1806-07), which is being restored under the direction of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, will not be open to the public until 1952 because of the construction of a new access road.

Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Work on the Louis Bolduc House is continuing under the direction of the Missouri Society of the Colonial Dames of America. The exterior of the house, except for doors and windows, has been restored and painted. Work has now begun on restoring the interior.

Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. The State of West Virginia is rapidly purchasing the necessary land for the Harper's Ferry National Monument Project with the $350,000 fund appropriated by the legislature.

Plymouth, Massachusetts. Plimoth Plantation, Inc., has announced the completion of research and plans for the construction of the First Fort by Charles R. Strickland. Because the site originally chosen for the village reconstruction is no longer available a less pretentious building program, to be executed on the State Reservation near Plymouth Rock, has been planned; only the First House, the First Fort, and a full-scale replica of the Mayflower will be reconstructed.

Rison, Maryland. The Smallwood Foundation, which owns the site of the home of General William Smallwood of Revolutionary War fame, has announced that the Charles County Commissioners have agreed to rebuild the abandoned county road to the property. Meanwhile, the campaign for funds to reconstruct the home continues.

New York City. India House, built on Hanover Square in 1837 and now occupied by a club of shipping men, is being restored to its original exterior appearance.

Ohio and Indiana. These two states are preparing a master plan to restore historic sites along the Anthony Wayne Memorial Parkway, which runs from Cincinnati to Toledo and Fort Wayne. The survey will check historic sites in the 23 counties through which the Parkway runs.

Cassville, Wisconsin. The Nelson Dewey Farm, home of the first governor of Wisconsin, is being developed to show a Wisconsin farm of the 1870-1880 period.

Newark, Ohio. The Licking County Historical Society is restoring and refurnishing the historic Davidson House.

Lexington, Missouri. The Anderson House and adjacent Civil War battlefield have been formally re-opened to the public. Although the restoration is incomplete, four rooms have been furnished and the grounds and gardens have been restored.

ACTIVE PRESERVATION

Cooperstown, New York. A doctor's office, which the New York Medical Society will help to furnish, and a print shop have been added to the Farmer's Museum of the New York State Historical Association.

Crab Orchard, Kentucky. The State of Kentucky has opened the historic Whitley Mansion, one of the first brick houses built west of the Alleghenies. Erected in 1781 by Col. William Whitley, a noted Indian fighter and pioneer, the Mansion has been owned by the State since 1938.

Bar Harbor, Maine. The Ruggles House Society, a member organization, has completed a year's work to bring the exterior of the House back to its appearance 130 years ago when it was first built. A program is now under way for restoring the interior and reconditioning the furniture.

Williamsburg, Virginia. As part of its new audio-visual program, a documentary film on the history and restoration of the colonial capital has just been released. Colonial Williamsburg is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and this film is graphic and exciting testimony to the many accomplishments of the group that has guided its progress.

Stony Brook, New York. This 200-year-old town on the North Shore of Long Island continues with its program of city planning and restoration. One of the latest buildings to be transformed by the Stony Brook Community Fund is the Old Post Office.

Biloxi, Mississippi. "Beauvoir," the last home of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, has been opened to the public. This estate has long served as a "free and welcome home for all ex-Confederate soldiers and sailors resident in the State of Mississippi, and their widows and orphans and servants." Furniture and other objects owned by Davis will be displayed.

Annapolis, Maryland. The Old Treasury Building which stands in State Circle, one of the oldest public buildings in America, has been completely restored. A careful photographic and descriptive record of the various steps in its restoration has been placed in the Hall of Records.

Fort Monroe, Virginia. The Jefferson Davis Casemate, restored by the United States authorities at Fort Monroe, with the cooperation of the Committee for the Fort Monroe Museum and the Jefferson Davis Casemate, is now open.

Chicago, Illinois. Chicago Portage Natural Historic Site has been acquired by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois, a member organization. The Portage, used widely in the 17th and 18th centuries, was one of the most important early water routes in North America. It will now be open daily throughout the year without fee.

Huntington, New York. "Eagle's Nest," the Long Island home of the late William K. Vanderbilt, is now open to the public. It adjoins the Vanderbilt Marine Museum and 43 acres of gardens which were opened last year.

The Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, a new member organization from Utica, New York, held a spring photographic exhibition on "Early Architecture of Utica and Vicinity." This is the first step in the Institute's program to establish a photographic record of the architecture of central New York State.

FOREIGN PRESERVATION

Chateau de Rapperswil, Switzerland. The International Castle Research Institute held its third annual conference in August of this year. It was organized to preserve and arouse interest in the fortified castles of the Middle Ages, and to study their influence historically, architecturally and geographically on the culture of that era. Its permanent headquarters will be at the Chateau de Rapperswil, a medieval castle which will house complete files of medieval fortifications classed by countries; archives dealing with their technical and historical elements; an international professional library; a museum which will include models showing methods of warfare, life in the Middle Ages, arms and armor. Beginning in 1952, the files, archives and library will be available to fellow members of the organization and qualified scholars, and the museum will be open to the public.

Chartres, France. The American Institute of Architects, a member organization, has made available from the Henry Adams Fund a gift of $3000 toward the repair and reconstruction of Chartres Cathedral.

Greenwich, England. Burned out by Nazi incendiary bombs in March, 1941, historic St. Alfege Church, where King Henry VIII was baptized and General James Wolfe is buried, is to be restored to its ancient beauty. A public appeal for £9000 from Canada and other parts of the British Commonwealth has been made. A special memorial corner is to be set aside to General Wolfe, the hero of the Plains of Abraham, whose battle flags and memorial placque were destroyed.

> Some time ago the National Council had a request for help from a Nevada lawyer, Mr. Charles L. Richards. He wanted to save the pioneer Methodist Church in Austin and didn't know how to go about it. On the basis of the information given to him then, and in subsequent months these things have happened: A Lander County Civic and Historic Society has been formed; the Methodist Church in Austin has been saved and is being restored; and the Society has a program to save a number of other historic sites in the neighborhood. Currently Mr. Richards and his group are seeking some way to salvage the famous old V & T Bridge in Virginia City, which recently toppled into the Truckee River. Its significance rests on the fact that the railroad cars that passed over it during the Civil War carried the gold from the fabulous Virginia City mines which helped to bolster the Union's monetary system.

PASSING PARADE

Schuyler, Nebraska. OLD BUILDING RAZED FOR GARAGE ADDITION.

Paterson, New Jersey. U.S. SELLS RINGWOOD MINES WHICH SUPPLIED IRON IN 1776.

Hollywood, California. BUILDING WRECKERS FIND RELICS OF '93 IN OLD CORNERSTONE.

Watkins, New York. LEE MANSION RAZED FOR NEW HOSPITAL UNIT.

Ozark, Arkansas. OLD LANDMARK PASSES TO MAKE WAY FOR NEW SCHOOL.

Petersville, Pennsylvania. HISTORIC MILL STREAM INN GUTTED IN $40,000 FIRE.

Wichita Falls, Kansas. CITY'S OLDEST MANSION DISMANTLED - LOTS SUBDIVIDED.

Crown Point, New York. FIRE DESTROYS OLD STANLEY HOUSE AT CROWN POINT.

Crowell, Texas. PIONEER HOME TORN DOWN FOR LUMBER.

Searcy, Arkansas. FAMOUS GODDEN HALL BEING WRECKED ON HARDING CAMPUS.

Baltimore, Maryland. JOHNS HOPKINS RAZES PRESIDENT GILMAN'S HOME FOR PARKING LOT.

Juneau, Alaska. ANCIENT CITY HALL REPLACED BY MODERN OFFICE BUILDING.

Allentown, New Jersey. 137-YEAR OLD GRIST MILL DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Davenport, Iowa. WRECKERS COMPLETE DEMOLITION OF HISTORIC HOME FOR SUPERMARKET.

St. Louis, Missouri. HISTORIC STONE HOUSE RAZED.

Nelson, New York. HOUSE WHERE FIRST TOWN MEETING WAS HELD DEMOLISHED.

Samuel Chamberlin, the noted photographer of the New England historical scene, has completed another of his pictorial studies, Old Sturbridge Village: A Camera Impression. A pre-publication edition ($1.50, with flexible cover) is available from Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

THE OMNIPRESENT THREAT (Continued)

There is now no time during the National Council's year when it is not being called upon to help in the preservation of some significant site or building. In the last Quarterly Report the case of the Church of the Unity, in Springfield, Massachusetts, was cited as typical of the kind of action in which the Council has taken a limited part. It was then noted that the Church was reconsidering its decision to tear down the Henry Hobson Richardson masterpiece. Since that time it has been learned that $110,000 will be needed to do the job, a huge sum of money for a small congregation. Because there is as yet no emergency revolving fund to stimulate so worthy a preservation cause, General Grant has tried to offer concrete suggestions as to how the goal might be achieved. Unfortunately there is no certain path and in the final analysis success depends on the efforts of those most concerned. It is true, however, in a heartening number of cases that the Council's suggestions, letters and advice have aroused local groups to effective and conclusive action.

Another similar case in another section of the country offers testimony to the threat. Today the Council is encouraging through correspondence the efforts of an ardent group of preservationists incorporated under the title "Association for the Purchase, Restoration and Preservation of the Southern University Building" which has been organized in Greensboro, Alabama, to save this fine example of early Gothic Revival architecture. Enough money has been raised to purchase the building, but now funds are needed for stabilization and to restore it as an Old South Museum. The National Council's public recognition of the worthiness of the need is helping to stimulate interest in their program.

The University of Illinois and the Burnham Library of Architecture (Art Institute of Chicago) are cooperating on a project to accumulate an archive of microfilm that will record and preserve the history of architecture in the Middle West. Currently the project is concentrating on obtaining working drawings and specifications of skyscrapers and other skeleton-frame structures in Chicago. Inquiries should be addressed to John Replinger, Microfilming Project, Burnham Library, The Art Institute, Chicago 3, Illinois.

DO YOU HAVE A COURTHOUSE PROBLEM?

1951 has been a bad year for historic courthouses throughout the United States. In Flemingsburg, Kentucky, concerned citizens lost a long struggle to save the handsome 1829 Greek Revival structure that has long been a crowning feature of the town's principal vista. It is being replaced by a modern building on the site. The Marion County Courthouse, in Salem, capital of Oregon, is about to go the way of others of that city's early landmarks. Efforts to save this elegant example of French Renaissance architecture of the later nineteenth century as a pioneer museum so far have been unavailing. Dayton County, Ohio, in November will decide the fate of its 1847 Greek Revival courthouse, an outstanding example of its period and style, which unfortunately stands on land valued at a million and a half dollars if exploited commercially. This nationally significant example of early architecture, with its Ionic portico and steps from which Abraham Lincoln spoke, will probably be razed. The First Knox County, Illinois, Courthouse and Hall of Records, erected in 1840, is being preserved by a volunteer group which hopes to restore the buildings for a museum and library.

When Dallas, Texas, was told by the local Bar Association that it was high time they relieved the local courts of the trappings of horse and buggy days, the Editor of the Dallas News agreed, but he added:

> This goal can be achieved without tearing down the old courthouse, as Mr. Jack is among the first to say. An up-to-date civil and criminal courts building could be built in the cluster of county buildings we already have. It could be as streamlined and "functional" as the youngest graduate of an architectural school might dream. It could be made as scientifically air-conditioned as a packinghouse, as aseptic as a mortuary. Though blind, Justice herself would know that her abode was the finest product of the machine-age designer's art.
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> At the same time, Dallas could find plenty of other uses to make of the 1890 courthouse building. It is soundly built, and it could be modernized inside without too much cost. This once famous structure has more than passing significance as the kind of public building the people of Dallas sixty years ago thought was "some punkin's." Five hundred years from now it may even be a priceless relic. Maybe posterity might appreciate our handing it down to them. It has been paid for. To that extent it is unique among the tangible gifts we might pass on to future generations.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Children, parents, and child psychologists combined efforts to save the little red Jeffrey's Hook Lighthouse, which nestles under the Manhattan side of the George Washington Bridge. Park Commissioner Robert Moses rushed to the rescue when the U. S. Coast Guard for the second time offered the midget lighthouse for sale. He accepted it for the city when he was told that the children's book, The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge, had made the structure "a symbol of security" for children, who can look at its new bright red coat of paint and be reassured that it is possible to be little and still get along in a great big world.

The New Yorker magazine has reported on a package of sewing needles imported from Japan. The artist who designed the container has drawn slant-eyed Pilgrims landing on a stern and rock-bound coast, a startling feature of which is three gabled houses and a windmill.